

CPAC Newsletter

The 1950 National Conference: Our Opportunities Defined

In the Convention Hall of the Chateau Laurier the smoke is cleared away, the air is stilled (and cooled to normal temperature). How did the Conference serve CPAC aims?

It is easiest to answer with jobs that can be measured: over seven station-hours of radio time were devoted to planning topics; enough press stories came out to fill a healthy newspaper supplement; and a string of illustrated magazine articles is on the way. These by themselves make a good week's work for an organization setting out to foster public understanding of community planning.

Yet to those involved in the many sessions, the content of next year's program meant more than the content of this week's papers. The delegates had come from twenty cities across the continent. They had come with planning problems and preconceptions a good deal more widely scattered than their home towns. Considering the care taken to be sure that the principal guests of the Conference would speak from many and varied fields of experience, it is remarkable how persistently the Conference heard and recognized one theme. That theme was: (1) that we are certain to build a lot more city, (2) that in spite of our abundant natural and political ingenuity we are likely to get merely a repeat order of the last five years of city-building, and (3) that the key to satisfactory city living can be turned only by popular support for the vigorous use and expansion of the planning process. Our local governments must be better staffed and equipped, if they are to guide the changing city into more liveable forms.

Thus President Harold Clark in his key-note address declared that "no metropolitan area in Canada is in fact growing to any purposeful pattern . . . Some of our cities are becoming so unwieldy as to make this an urgent task". At the Association Luncheon, Frederick Gutheim of the American Institute of Architects reminded us that 40 years ago city planning was a reform movement; he pointed to much present-day city-building, even where city planning is officially in operation, as proof that the reforms themselves need overhauling. He believes that groups such as CPAC have the power to plot the city-building reforms of the 1950's.

Nathan Keyfitz of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics set forth the evidence that city-building decisions are being rapidly made by corporate bodies, whereas they used to be made at greater leisure by men of personal judgments. Clearly any equipment devised to obtain local co-ordination of building decisions must be adapted to fit the way those decisions are now being reached.

Both President David Mansur of Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation, and Appraisal Supervisor G. A. Golden of the Sun Life stressed that we have a lot of building ahead of us. Excluding outlay by private land-owners, Mr. Mansur estimated that the municipal expense connected with the next five years of house building would alone amount to over half a billion dollars. There was some uneasiness about casting such enormous investments into the urban moulds left behind when the horse-car disappeared. David Mansur said the only successful alternative known to him was large scale residential development on land in a single ownership; but he could not see this way being taken by enough financial giants to quell the building demand that lies just ahead.

Benjamin Higgins, Professor of Economics at McGill University and Anthony Adamson, architect and town planner of the University of Toronto, were among those ready to admit that the familiar community planning mechanism — the appointed Planning Board with its Official Plan, the Zoning By-law and subdivision control — have not yet been able to cope with their main job, that is to turn all the city builders towards the path leading to more satisfactory communities. But Professor Higgins stressed that these established mechanisms had already produced substantial results, and held promise of much better accomplishment. Two reasons were given for this hope: (1) planning authorities are doing more to encourage good and less to prohibit evil than formerly; (2) the universities have begun to train skilled planners.

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The 1950 Conference: —from page one

Professor Adamson averred that at all events the homely and ordinary planning tools were the only ones likely to come to hand in the next few years in Canada.

As Chairman of the Research Committee of CMHC, Humphrey Carver related the studies under way to make known across Canada the best current practices of local planning agencies. He illustrated the Corporation's activities with sheets from their new manual of urban mapping, and referred to their promotion of training in planning. Dr. Albert Rose followed with an account of work done for the Corporation in the past summer toward a simple technique in local surveys of housing need. He was confident that such surveys would bring into focus the various uses to be made of existing housing legislation.

Other speakers turned to longer-term objectives. Geographer Wreford Watson observed that in practice the old mechanisms had often broken down; it seemed to him that Canadians should now be assembling the components for more resilient planning machinery, to be served by a crew possessing more diversified and exact skills. The mechanism should be devised ultimately to span the whole metropolitan region.

In the final session we heard again from Chairman F. J. Osborn of the Town and Country Planning Association of Britain, and President Clarence Stein of the Regional Development Council of America. Both authorities expect that novel development systems will have to be found, if the usual stream of building is to be guided into a better-than-usual community. Mr. Osborn, who is an administrator and industrialist, told how private groups had developed such an instrument in the Garden City, and how they had advocated its use until something very like it became the national policy for New Towns. He thought that in North America a suitable linkage of private and public enterprise could be set up to gain the same advantage.

Clarence Stein, who is an architect, declared that the conventional organization for city building had long since proved unable to produce anything but the conventional city. He illustrated unconventional communities in the United States, in Britain, in Sweden and in India, which had in every case arisen from deliberate determination to build well on a large scale — not out of attempts to prevent many small undertakings from adding up to large mistakes.

We believe that the Canadians who want to live in more satisfactory communities should study these examples: how to get less asphalt and more grass, how to keep people on foot quite safe from people on wheels, how to live close to places of pleasant congregation as well as to places of solitary exploration. Once clear as to the kind of living places *possible*, we could see how often the habitual city building and city planning processes have rendered such places *actual*. Then we should know which of our planning tools to keep, which to discard, and what new techniques of city building to look for. Our planning equipment is of value to us, only as it can show us what could be done with the ground we stand on, and then renders year by year an outcome ever closer to what the community wants.

Press Digest

HALIFAX—The City is experiencing growing pains such as have not been common in Maritime cities for some time. From 1881 to 1921 Nova Scotia added fewer than 1400 persons a year to its population. In the next decade it actually lost at a rate of 1100 a year. Since then population growth has averaged around 6700 persons per year and lately this rate has gone up sharply. The expansion has brought unresolved problems in its wake. One of these is the provision of buildings for school children. While Halifax has added three new schools this fall, hundreds of students will again be forced to attend on a part-time basis through the lack of adequate classroom space. Out of a total school enrollment of 14,867 last year, approximately 1500 students attended only part of the day.

The housing problem is equally serious. James Dudley, regional supervisor for Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation stated that Halifax will always have a housing shortage unless the present rate of construction of new houses is stepped up. At present there are 16,000 houses for about 20,000 families. Last year the city added only 183 new housing units to the backlog demand while completions to date in 1950 amount to 132 units.

Mayor Gordon S. Kinley has authorized a survey of multiple low-cost housing developments at Kentville and Yarmouth to see whether they would assist the City in its announced intention of providing for low-cost housing. The Mayor may confer with Resources Minister Winters regarding aid under National Housing Act terms. Mr. Winters had mentioned that he would like to see Halifax take advantage of Section 35 as has been done in British Columbia, Ontario and Newfoundland.

While more houses must go up, some must come down. The Board of Works here has authorized action to remove a number of houses recently built on the City's watershed area — contrary to law. Remedial measures were felt necessary to protect the further pollution of the city's water supply. The Board has now defined the watershed boundaries in consultation with other authorities so that future mistakes cannot be unintentionally illegal. Compensation to those who were unaware of building restriction in the area and who will now lose their homes will likely be considered.

Continued requests for changes in the zoning by-law provisions recently enacted by the City of Halifax have proved a source of trouble to City Council. The *Mail-Star* warns Council not to destroy the plan and regulations "by deviating from them with every autumn breeze."

Another zoning system for different purposes has been worked out by Health Commissioner A. R. Morton and City Assessor J. T. McManus. It divides the city into 17 "census tracts" set up principally on a basis of income-levels. The tracts will be useful for next year's federal census and will permit comparative statistics on housing, health and other research data to be assembled.

A Council-Manager form of government, as used in several other Canadian cities may soon be introduced here. The question was put to voters recently and the response was 3718 to 2223 in favour of the City Manager plan. With only 25% on the eligible list casting ballots, the City authorities may be in no hurry to implement such a scheme which requires amendments to the City Charter.

QUEBEC—M. Cyrille Bélanger, assistant treasurer of the City, has completed a report in which there is the suggestion that federal financial aid be secured to spur on new house-building in Quebec City (Provision for such aid exists under SECTION 35 of the NHA and has been used by a few cities.)

MONTREAL—The Tremblay Commission, charged with the duty of investigating the transportation problems of the metropolis has issued a comprehensive report on the subject. In it, the commissioners recommended municipalization of the tramways company; radical improvements in services at a cost approximating \$30 millions; creation of parking garages, and suppression of parking on busy downtown streets. Subways, the

report states, may become necessary but cannot pay their way and must therefore be financed out of taxes. Further study was advocated before action is taken.

As Smoke Abatement Week ended here, City authorities gave notice that they intend to take a new anti-smoke bylaw seriously. The by-law provides a \$40 per day fine for violations of the prescribed standards. To make enforcement easier, the City plans a continuous publicity campaign to enlist public recognition of and support for the new by-law.

WASHINGTON—The United States Government has instituted an emergency ban on the construction of race tracks, dance halls, bowling alleys and other amusement spots. Severe limitations on private real estate credit and federal home financing have already been imposed, and a limitation on commercial construction credit is expected to follow.

President Truman has ordered a survey of natural resources of New York and the New England States. The survey will consider power and water resources of mutual interest to the U.S. and Canada, including the proposed tidal power development on Passamaquoddy Bay in New Brunswick, the development of the Niagara Falls power potential and the construction of the St. Lawrence Seaway and power project.

OTTAWA—Back in Canada's capital, the Government has created a new directorate within the department of transport to be known as the Special Projects branch. It will unite the general engineering services, engineering design and capital construction services of the department. The director will be Guy A. Lindsay who has been closely associated with the St. Lawrence waterways' development and is chairman of the Canadian Advisory Committee on the St. Lawrence Waterways Plan.

The government is proceeding with plans which call for a decentralization of Ottawa's major industry—government. A west end site which will house the National Film Board and the Dominion Bureau of Statistics is being equipped with necessary water, light and other services. The Master Plan for the City calls for a dispersal of several government departments to outlying areas. Such a move would enable old buildings to be demolished and add to the beauty of certain localities, might reduce downtown congestion and would encourage people to locate near their work and therefore avoid cross town journeys.

The French Government, in a gracious gesture, will soon present the Canadian Government with a 10 by 8 foot Aubusson tapestry depicting Canada's national capital region and showing the parkways and scenic vistas as proposed in the master plan for Ottawa. A good deal of work is represented in the tapestry which has been in preparation for nine months.

TORONTO—A further indication of the suburban trek is evident in school enrollment in the Toronto area. Registration in city schools has dropped 2619 below the 1949 figure while the suburban schools are jammed. North York, which is a 'building boom' area has seen a 31% increase in enrollment. A \$7,000,000 school building program which will provide 17 public and 3 secondary schools before 1952 now appears insufficient to cope with the rapid increase in the suburban school population.

The City is building a \$400,000 model community centre in the Moss Park Area. The building will have a swimming pool, gymnasium-auditorium, games rooms, craft rooms, library, kitchen and snack bar.

A large scale photographic coverage of the entire Toronto area has been completed. The photo survey was undertaken as a project which would benefit officials of city and industry in studying sites for various enterprises, by relating possible sites to the complete area.

Little progress has been made in the amalgamation hearings before the Ontario Municipal Board. Statistics have been brought forward to represent different viewpoints but there has been a general disinterest in the question. Provincial action seems to be in the offing.

An increase of \$35,108,000 or 15.6% in the total net debenture debt of Ontario municipalities during 1949 is shown by the Annual Report of Municipal Statistics for that year, issued by the Ontario Department of Municipal Affairs. That is slightly above last year's increase of \$32,187,000. The trend toward debt

reduction ceased in 1932 and since then the reverse process has accelerated. (Copies of the report are available from the Ontario Department of Municipal Affairs, Price is \$5.)

ST-THOMAS—Following talks with provincial and federal representatives, it was announced that this City would become the fifth in Ontario to take advantage of the Land Assembly plan under the National Housing Act, to provide low cost housing for its citizens. To date agreements have been made by Windsor, London, Kingston, and Ottawa (see Halifax). The scheme here calls for 200 homes with a probable price range of \$6,500 to \$10,000.

ETOBICOKE—A resident of Vineland, Ontario was recently fined \$500 after being convicted of breaking the township's urban development bylaw. The offender was charged with selling land without the approval of the township planning board.

LONDON—A \$4 million dam and reservoir six miles upstream from this city will remove the threat of spring floods and provide a supplementary source of household water. 75 percent of the cost of the Fanshaw dam will be borne equally by Federal and Provincial Governments while the 30 municipalities represented in the Upper Thames Authority will divide the remaining 25 per cent.

Premier Frost of Ontario and Resources Minister Winters have since held talks on conservation questions. Mr. Frost said that it was felt desirable that conservation plans include such measures as insect control, reforestation, correction and prevention of soil erosion and generally the best possible utilization of the land.

Speaking at Beeton, Ontario, the Premier reported that 70 arenas and rinks, 59 community halls and 37 athletic fields were built last year for the benefit of Rural Ontario. Despite great industrial expansion, one third of Ontario's population is directly or indirectly connected with agriculture.

WINNIPEG—There is no trend for new residential building to go to higher ground as a result of flood experience during the spring. Neither is there any likelihood that Winnipeg will decentralize by creating satellite cities outside the urban core as recommended by Major-General F. F. Worthington, Canada's co-ordinator of civil defence. Such a move, he stated would protect Canadian cities to a greater extent against possible atomic warfare. In Great Britain, the Government has made the creation of New Towns a positive policy. The goal is not protection—even if that be incidentally involved, but rather is a more liveable community. (See Conference editorial — F. J. Osborn.)

REGINA—has taken its first formal step toward an agreement with the Federal and Provincial housing scheme. The Saskatchewan Government passed enabling legislation at its last session which, with NHA grants under Section 35 will make such schemes possible. The province has agreed to split 25% of the cost with the city. Federal Government grants cover the remaining 75%.

EDMONTON—The Detwiler civic centre scheme has been turned down by the burgesses of this city. The scheme failed to obtain the approval of the Alberta Board of Public Utility Commissioners, making a vote necessary. A two-thirds affirmative vote was required to pass the proposal.

Town Planner Noel Dant has run into lively opposition in his attempt to secure approval of the interim control bylaw for Edmonton (see September Newsletter). The contentious clause is one which would grant the town planner the right to rezone any area in the city of 10 acres or less without consulting any committee or official, and without appeal.

The Edmonton *Journal* welcomes the news that a \$3 million rental apartment project providing 525 units at rentals from \$60 to \$90 is to be constructed in the city. The *Journal* however points out that such a scheme does not provide for low-cost and low-rental housing within the purchasing power of low-income groups, which is the biggest need of the day.

Some 12 miles of downtown streets will be rid of overhead wiring and supporting poles by 1955 if an underground wiring project, now in its third year, continues on schedule. City officials say that the result is not only more aesthetic but economical. Installation costs are 25% higher than the conventional overhead but over a long period total cost will be reduced because of a considerable saving in maintenance costs—which are largely a problem of repair after storms.

VANCOUVER—Mayor Charles E. Thompson has proposed that a "county council" form of government be established to co-ordinate the future development of Vancouver and adjoining municipalities. The mayor envisaged a council which would have senior powers over the affected cities, municipalities and districts in the raising of funds and planning of matters "of common interest". One problem is the location of industry as Vancouver is rapidly running out of land suitable for industry.

The City's 10-Year Plan fund for civic improvements will likely be spent by the end of 1952, two years ahead of schedule. The \$50,000,000 originally set aside has been prematurely exhausted by inflation and by program commitments of the engineering department.

Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation officially opened its Fraserview veterans' rental project in south-east Vancouver on September 29th. The project will provide homes for 1100 with an ultimate population of 5000. To date some 600 homes have either been completed or are close to completion. 34 different house types provide variety and choice to the occupants. The rental is from \$33 to \$45 a month. Space has been provided for shopping centres, schools, churches, parks and playgrounds. CMHC has also announced plans for a \$4 million, 800 unit project on Vancouver island and the mainland. Most of these will be for military personnel.

West Vancouver is to be the locale of Canada's first integrated shopping centre. The \$1,500,000 Park Royal project has parking space for 700 cars and is laid out to give easy access to stores. Canopied sidewalks act as a protection against the elements and flowers and fountains add beauty to convenience.

The third Regional Conference sponsored by the B.C. Division of CPAC will be held in Salon A of the Hotel Vancouver on November 16th and 17th. The theme of the Conference will be "Fringe Development and Related Problems."

NEW WESTMINSTER—at an executive meeting of the Lower Mainland Regional Planning Board it was decided to form a committee to co-operate with consulting engineers in securing a base plan and other data for the lower mainland area. The general aim is to prevent duplication of effort by the co-ordination of planning which would include provision for future highways, industrial development, parks, school sites and residential areas.

AMSTERDAM—The following is one resolution passed at the recent conference of the International Federation for Housing and Town Planning — "This 20th Congress urges upon Governments and public opinion in all countries, the vital importance of a clear policy and adequate legislation for the planning of the use of land in urban and rural regions which is now proved to be necessary for the maintenance and improvement of housing standards and social and economic efficiency, the provision of sufficient open space for health and recreation, the good relationship between towns and the agricultural countryside, and the avoidance of excessively long journeys to work. While methods of guidance will vary according to national characteristics, physical conditions and circumstances, the need of forethought and some measure of control of use-zoning, occupation density and the location of industry is common to all countries if not identical, and in the view of this Congress should be a major concern of governmental policy and of public opinion."

LONDON, ENG.—The problem of car parking in Britain's heavily-populated centres has long been a headache for the authorities. Where surface space is scarce, one solution is to go underground. Experience has shown however, that fire and explosion are a source of trouble in such underground garages. A committee here has investigated the problem and come up with recommendations on such matters as — structural precautions, ventilation and fire extinguishing equipment. Many authorities here feel that with proper safeguards, multi-storey car parks may prove to be a solution for the parking problem. (The Report — "Precautions against Fire and Explosion in Underground Car Parks" is available from His Majesty's Stationery Office, York House, Kingsway, London, W.C.2.)

CPAC LOGBOOK

At the Fourth Annual General Meeting of CPAC, the five organized Divisions presented accounts of the year's activity in their territory. The following is a summary of these reports.



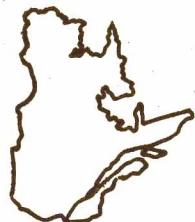
NOVA SCOTIA DIVISION

The Division reported on its successful Maritime Regional Conference and noted that reports of this Conference had been distributed to service clubs, women's institutes, home and school associations, labour organizations, City and Municipal Councils and others through the co-operation of the Institute of Public Affairs of Dalhousie University.

The Division will participate in another Regional Conference scheduled for Saint John, New Brunswick on November 28th. Mr. Alan H. Armstrong, Executive Director of CPAC will be a guest speaker.

The Division has suggested that legislation should be obtained in Nova Scotia in order that the Canadian Government slum clearance assistance program may take effect there as is already the case in New Brunswick and Newfoundland.

The Nova Scotia Division has also concerned itself with the intended implementation of the recommendations contained in the master plan for the City of Halifax by the City Council of the provincial capital.



QUEBEC DIVISION

Four active branches are at work — in Quebec City, Three Rivers, Rimouski and Chicoutimi. In the proceedings of a regional conference held in Montreal, a provincial planning act and an agency to administer it had been urged. The Division's Executive also acted to secure Quebec Government legislation to accompany the amended National Housing Act and such legislation had in the spring session of this year been adopted.

The Quebec City Branch succeeded in bringing together both officials and citizens of metropolitan Quebec to study the need for a regional planning agency, and official steps to that end had followed. The Branch sponsored five study meetings and heard from several notable guest speakers. Films were used to supplement the discussions.

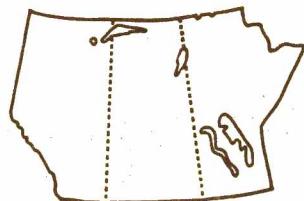
From Montreal, informative material was circulated to various Chambers of Commerce and the provincial organ of that organization carried material on the question of local CPAC branches.



ONTARIO DIVISION

The Ontario Division said that it had found the conference technique the best means so far discovered to further the work of the Association. It then commented on the two regional conferences sponsored by the Ontario Division of the Association, the first in Schumacher on May 5th and 6th; the second in Hamilton from June 22nd to 24th. The delegates at Schumacher asked for the establishment of Regional Planning Boards in Northern Ontario and discussions to this effect are now under way. At Hamilton a resolution in the same view called upon the Ontario Division to ask the Ontario Department of Planning and Development to undertake a demonstration project in regional planning on the Niagara peninsula, one which recognizes all aspects of community and conservation development. Registration at these conferences was drawn chiefly from Planning Boards, Municipal Councils and Conservation Authorities.

Branches in Toronto, Hamilton and Ottawa have been active during the year. Co-operation with other organizations on important matters will be sought in order to further CPAC aims in each locality.



MANITOBA DIVISION

Acting on recommendations made at last year's conference, the Division worked with municipal representatives in urging the Manitoba Government to pass complementary legislation to Section 35 of the National Housing Act. Such legislation was formulated and passed last spring and provides for housing authorities somewhat as outlined in the CPAC program.

On other phases of the program the Division was unable to act as these related to matters already in hand in the Winnipeg area by the Metropolitan Planning Commission.

Much effort was expended on what became known as the Portage Project — essentially an attempt to get a small city to study housing and related problems by means of a survey. While an actual survey did not result, a general interest in community planning matters was fostered and may well show itself in future questions.

More recently the Winnipeg members of CPAC presented a studied submission to the Finance Committee of the Winnipeg City Council when that body was discussing a motion that the City withdraw from the Metropolitan Planning Commission. The motion was thereupon dropped.

The flood had a crippling effect on CPAC work. The Divisional secretary — Mrs. W. J. Shepherd, served with the Manitoba Flood Relief Fund Committee and shortly after, for family reasons, she moved to Victoria, B.C. The Division has since been fortunate in securing Mr. C. F. Greene as the new secretary.

The Executive of the Division has discussed several possible forms of activity for the coming year and expects some of these to materialize shortly. An example is an agreement concluded between CPAC and the Metropolitan Planning Commission whereby speakers and various outlets for public information will operate under CPAC auspices. The 42 Community Clubs in the Winnipeg area for instance, are to act as organs for fostering public interest and participation in current questions relating to community life.



BRITISH COLUMBIA DIVISION

The total membership of this Division as of August 31st, 1950 stood at 195 of which 175 are Active Members and 20 Sustaining Members.

Active branches continue in Vancouver, New Westminster and Cowichan. The Vancouver Branch has held monthly meetings with speakers giving informative talks on various phases of planning — occasionally supplemented by films or slides. The Branch has also supplied speakers to other Civic Groups. It has worked with the Divisional Executive in supporting the establishment of a Planning Department at the City Hall. The New Westminster Branch has been equally active and has had meetings with the Mayor and Council on the contentious locations of the New Westminster Armouries, Comfort Station, City Hall site and other planning questions.

The report commends the Provincial Government for its co-operation. This was particularly evident in the creation of the Lower Mainland Regional Planning Board which has an operating budget of \$18,000 for the year — including a Provincial grant of \$2500, a \$7500 contribution by Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation and municipal contributions.

The tone of the report is optimistic and the Division is looking forward to another successful year.

Graphic Aids on Community Planning

FILMS

Arteries of the City: *Encyclopaedia Britannica Films. 11 mins. B & W. (1941)*

This film deals with transportation problems in a modern city: the distribution of residential and business sections, the daily flow of people, traffic systems, and police regulations.

Availability: Rental: C.F.I. (\$1.50)
Purchase: General Films, Regina.

Capital Plan, A: *National Film Board. 11 mins. Color (1949)*

Ottawa, capital city which "just growed," is laid out afresh, along modern lines, by an expert town-planner. Tourists, diplomats, trade experts, walk in the shadow of the Peace Tower, see the historic Rideau Canal, and the swimming and skiing facilities close to Ottawa's centre. But they see, too, the cluttered buildings, the traffic bottlenecks, the smoke from the cross-town tracks. To make Ottawa a city fit to be Canada's capital Jacques Greber, noted town planner, has laid out "a capital plan." With tracks moved, factories relocated, and neighbourhoods redesigned as separate communities, Ottawa can become a capital city of true beauty and dignity.

Availability: Rental: C.F.I. (\$1.50)

Cities: Why They Grow: *Coronet, 10 mins. B & W.*

A ten-minute review of the balance of trade that makes a city "tick" just as surely as a nation: those who produce for "export" and make cities grow; and those who serve the producers, and give cities essential or attractive attributes. Good elementary background to the economics of city development and decline, made by Coronet with expert educational advice.

Availability: Rental: C.F.I. (\$1.00)

City, The: *American Documentary Films Inc. 33 mins. B & W (1939)*

Shows what made a New England Village of the last century pleasant, and how industry and urban growth ruined residential attraction and brought slums and disease. It then demonstrates how modern communities may have both efficient industry and humane development. One of the most outstanding documentary films ever produced: commentary by Lewis Mumford, music by Aaron Copland. See *THIS IS TOMORROW* for short version.

Availability: Rental: C.F.I. (\$3.00)

Growth of Cities: *Encyclopaedia Britannica Films. 10 mins. B & W. (1942)*

This film explains factors which determine the location and growth of cities. Shows the general trend towards organization throughout the United States. Various types of cities and city plans are presented. Factors involved in the area are clearly presented. The film includes the presentation of the prevailing trends of city planning.

Availability: Rental: C.F.I. (50c)
Purchase: General Films, Regina, Sask.

Life Stream of the City: *General Electric Corporation Films. 15 mins. Colour.*

Lucid exposition of problems of swelling traffic in our streets, and solutions offered by modern public vehicles.

Availability: Loan on application to nearest office of Canadian General Electric Ltd. for payment of Express charges.

New Town: *Central Office of Information, U.K. 14 mins. Colour.*

A 14-minute colour cartoon explaining in lively fashion the purposes of the British New Towns Act of 1946, under which fifteen towns are now being planned and built to relieve the crowding of older cities.

Availability: Rental: C.F.I. (\$2.00)

Proud City, The: *U.K. Information Office 26 mins. B & W (1945)*

This film presents a detailed description of the London County Council's plan to rebuild the capital city. The plans include more than the repairing of bomb damages—there will be a complete reorganization of Greater London. By means of well executed maps, models and drawings we are shown the transformation of one of the worst slums area into a beautiful, healthy and efficient community. This film provides an inspiring example of what a city can do through planning to make life better for all its citizens.

Availability: Rental: C.F.I. (\$1.50)

Planning Canada's National Capital: *National Film Board. 21 mins. B & W (1949)*

Ottawa as it is—city grown at random—and Ottawa as it can be, according to town-planners' design. Quaint old prints show Ottawa's growth on its magnificent site unique among world capitals—but a site now marred by smoky railway lines, depressed areas, crowding factories and buildings that block the view of the stately Peace Tower and cut Ottawans off from much of the enjoyment of their main river. Maps and animation show the new Ottawa, planned by the experts (and constructed in model) with its wide highways and green spaces, all surrounded by the parkland of the National Capital District. The plans are made—now Canadians must build to the plans, making Ottawa a true symbol of the Nation's achievements.

The Way We Live: *J. Arthur Rank Production. 63 mins. B & W (1947)*

An account of the plans for rebuilding Plymouth after the Blitz and the reactions of her citizens to the plan. The film presents its case from two different points of view—that of a journalist in search of material on "town planning" and that of an average Plymouth family in search of a decent home. An analysis of the city's problems is given—lack of housing, traffic difficulties, sprawling suburbs and lack of recreational facilities. Meetings of the City Council and other organizations are shown, in which the pros and cons of reconstruction methods are dealt with.

Availability: Rent: Hanson 16 mm Movies Ltd., 431 Yonge St., Toronto.

Purchase: Hanson 16 mm Movies Ltd., 431 Yonge St., Toronto.

This Is Tomorrow: *Civic Films. 10 mins. B & W (1938—Revised 1947)*

A short version of *THE CITY*. Deals with the three phases of city building and community living in North America. Contrasts the unplanned metropolis, with its by-products of slums and unnatural speed-up of daily routine, and the new decentralized community, planned for peace and segregation of work and recreation.

Availability: Rental: C.F.I. (\$1.00)

Town and Country Planning: *Bureau of Current Affairs. 10 mins.*

A 10-minute film produced for the British Army Bureau of Current Affairs, and stressing that while we rush to build houses we should also think of the kind of surroundings their occupiers will have to live with for the rest of this century.

Please enquire at your local Film Library for the above films or write directly to the Canadian Film Institute, 172 Wellington St., Ottawa.

Copies of this film list available from the National Office, 56 Lyon St., Ottawa.

Display Material

With the 1950-51 program now under way, Divisions or branches may wish to make use of display material for conferences or special meetings. Listed below are displays which can be obtained. Address inquiries to the Secretary, Community Planning Association, 56 Lyon St., Ottawa.

British Housing:

Consists of 10 panels, 5' high and 3' wide which are packed into two boxes for shipping. The panels depict area design, location of houses, industry and shops, and also demonstrate individual house plans. The display is to be shipped to various centres across Canada and requests should be forwarded immediately to the Divisional Offices.

Literature Table

A plywood table useful for displaying publications. A background panel can be set up for additional material. An overhead light goes with the table and the complete unit is compact and easy to ship. Available from the National Office.

Recent Canadian Housing Schemes

This contains photos and plans of subdivisions in Winnipeg (Wildwood), Vancouver (Fraserview), Toronto (Yorkminster) and Halifax (New Westmount), with explanatory text. Easily mounted on a table. Request from National Office.

An Introduction to Landscape Architecture

Composed of 20 panels each 28" by 40" wide. The plans, photos and sketches trace materials used and spaces treated from a private garden to a large city. Request from National Office.

Canadian City Growth Maps

Maps which were used in Dr. Rose's recent book (published by CPAC), showing urban growth in the major Canadian cities. Divided into western and eastern cities. (Available from the Manitoba Divisional Office and the Ontario Divisional Office respectively.)

Is Your Town Ready for New Housing?

This is a light portable display ready for mounting on a table. Shows the contrast between new 'blights' and new 'blessings'. Request from National Office.

Planned Development

Packs into a box roughly 42" by 34", and extends out to 10' long and 40" high. Can be set on a table 8' long with planning literature, etc. on the table in front. Prepared by the Informational Displays Division, National Film Board. Request from National Office.

Rebuilding Our Own Neighbourhood

Consists of 7 panels 5' wide and 4' high, masonite on wood. A sample neighbourhood in Ottawa is analysed for quality of housing, facilities for shopping, schools and recreation space, then re-planned to preserve what is valuable and to add what is needed. Request from National Office.

What Is Planning?

A large poster bearing a description of the planning process; can be obtained by writing the Secretary, Ontario Division, 1175 Bay Street, Toronto.

Note: The borrower is asked to cover shipping costs from and to Ottawa, or from and to other borrowers, if less.

Publications Noted . . .

Community Organization and Planning by Arthur Hillman

Mr. Hillman's book is primarily a descriptive work, one which organizes opinions, traces the evolution of communities and organizations within it, and one which cites frequent examples to give clarity to the description. An excellent bibliography should prove useful to those interested in pursuing a particular problem further. The author begins with a study of the sociology of a community and states that "while communities have always been organized informally, more definite and conscious methods of establishing patterns of co-operations are necessary and possible under modern conditions." He proceeds to consider some of the difficulties connected with planning through an examination of rural and city planning experience and concludes that apathy or inertia pose a major problem to effective planning which requires citizen participation. The author frequently states that the crucial problem in planning is one of relationships. His concluding remarks bear this out. Planning, he says, "is a continuous process and one which requires the exercise of the disciplined imagination, for which there is no set of rules" — further—"No single pattern of organization can be suggested for the attack on problems confronting communities." Hillman suggests that community planning needs two weapons (1) *facts* about the community, (2) *goals* which are determined by the co-operation of professionals and laymen. The latter should profit by reading this book; professionals too will find in it some useful material.

Published by Macmillan Co., Toronto 1950, 378 pp., \$4.00

Communities for Better Living by James Dahir

This text, confesses the author, was written partly in the hope that it would stimulate among citizens an awareness of needs and a determination to co-operate over a long period of time to achieve them. It is therefore deliberately provocative but in a manner that can scarcely give offense. Dahir states the problems as he sees them, then follows with suggestions as to their solution. He draws deliberately from past experience in planning liveable communities as illustrations of what can be accomplished on a local, regional, and national level. A confused urban sprawl tends, in his opinion, to extend social irresponsibility. Suburbs (and one-sixth of America lives in them) cannot be complete communities, though indications are that they will remain for some time and should therefore be improved as much as is possible. Satellite cities are, according to Dahir, a more satisfactory goal—as British experience has shown. At any rate he feels that "larger fiscal authority must be granted cities" since we have at present a system where "a unit of government most subject to adverse economic conditions is also the unit with the least power to do anything about it." Earlier in the book Dahir stated that one reason for a rather slow pace of planning accomplishment has been "that the ordinary citizen has not been brought into the process, has not been taught the language, has not been informed that from this work of planning he stands to gain as much as from many of the good things which we accept today as indispensable for an American standard of living." His book is an attempt to foster such an understanding. Illustrations and plot plans are a help to the reader, so is the discussion of architecture and plot plans in a form easily understood by the layman.

Published by Harper & Bros., 51 East 33rd St., New York 16, N. Y. 1950, 321 pp., \$4.00

Local Government in Ontario by Romaine K. Ross

This was written to "supplement and give organization to the presently available sources of information regarding local government in Ontario." The book traces the development of local government from the Constitutional Act (1791) to the present day. It gives the nature, organization and powers of local authorities and devotes a special chapter to bylaws.

Published by Canadian Law List Publishing Co., Toronto 1950, \$3.00

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The object of the Association is "to foster public understanding of, and participation in, community planning in Canada." Much of the effort for orderly community development must be locally centered. Members are therefore encouraged to form local branches of the Association. Inquiries should be addressed to the *Secretary* of the Provincial Division concerned. If no organized Division exists, write to the Executive Director, National Office, Ottawa.

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